


American elderberry Caprifoliaceae *Sambucus nigra* spp.

canadensis L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli  **symbol: SANIC4**


Leaf: Opposite, pinnately compound, 6 to 11 inches long, with 5 to 11 elliptical, serrate leaflets, acuminate tips, bottom leaflets are often 3-lobed, dark green above and much paler below.

Flower: Monoecious; small, white, borne in dense, flat-topped clusters, up to 8 inches across, appearing in summer.

Fruit: Small, berrylike drupe, purple-black, and very juicy, up to 1/4 inch in diameter, borne in flat-topped clusters, maturing in late summer.

Twig: Stout, silvery- to yellow-gray with obvious, warty lenticles, large white pith; buds are very small, red-brown and pointed, terminal buds are generally lacking.

Bark: Smooth and brown becoming shallowly furrowed and rough with age.

Form: A large shrub or small tree often with multiple stems that are spreading or arching reaching up to 12 feet tall. The trunk is usually short.


[USDAFS Additional Silvics - USDA Plants Database](#)

Sambucus nigra spp. *canadensis* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting American elderberry](#) (opens a new window).

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